

# On The Island

WINTER 2004

NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT



## Vision 2004: Charting Key Biscayne's Future

The Metropolitan Center at Florida International University is assisting the Village of Key Biscayne in developing and conducting a visioning conference scheduled for February 3. The purpose of the Conference is to provide a forum for residents to envision the future of their island.

"Each year the Village holds a goals and objectives conference," said Village Manager Jacqueline R. Menendez, "but this year we want to take the process to a new level. FIU's Metropolitan Center will help guide the process along."

Under the direction of Professor Dario Moreno, an expert on urban policy, the Center conducted a survey of a cross-section of Key Biscayne residents last month to determine islanders' attitudes toward their community and Village government. The focus is on issues related to quality of life—safety, public works, recreation and future growth.

"Our goal is to get a pulse on where the community stands on issues," said

Menendez, "and determine the direction people want to head in the future. The results will provide a guideline for Village leaders in establishing the agenda for the February Conference, *Vision 2004*."

Professor Moreno will provide the data and an analysis of the survey results at the Conference. All Key residents are invited to participate and voice their opinions.

"The survey is a mechanism for empowering residents on the future direction of the Village," Moreno said. "It will also inform Village leaders on public attitudes towards services like sewers, recreation facilities and growth."

The telephone survey polled a random sample of 400 Key Biscayne residents. The sample size and methodology was designed to meet the standards for scientific research.

"The results will provide a valuable tool in helping establish priorities for

future projects on the island,"

Moreno said.

Key Biscayne residents and businesspeople are invited to attend all or any part of the Vision 2004 Conference which will be held at Village Hall.



The following is a tentative schedule:

6:00 p.m. Opening Remarks  
6:30 p.m. Poll results/analysis  
7:00 p.m. Workshop Sessions

More information on Vision 2004 and the February Conference is online at [www.keybiscayne.fl.gov](http://www.keybiscayne.fl.gov) or you can call 305-365-5500.

## New Public Safety Office Better Coordinates Police, Fire Departments' Activities on Island

Key Biscayne residents are fortunate to enjoy one of the lowest crime rates in South Florida. However, public safety remains a top priority for Village government as public officials continually look for new ways to safeguard the health and well-being of island residents.

services on the island in addition to a growing roster of crime prevention programs.

"Since 9/11 there has been a new emphasis on homeland security," says Gilbert, whose Village Hall office is adjacent to both the firehouse and police station. "It has changed the

way we look at law enforcement at all levels. The Public Safety approach allows us to better coordinate activities of our firefighters and police officers—a big plus in today's security conscious environment."

Village Manager Jacqueline R. Menendez implemented the change as part of her ongoing effort to make the Village more user-friendly and provide higher levels of services to island residents.

"Our philosophy calls for police officers and firefighters to work together. And by working together, we can put more folks on the street to interact with our residents," Menendez said.

This approach complements the current thinking in law enforcement that calls for high visibility of police officers in neighborhoods and business areas. It also provides firefighters, who are often the first to respond to an emergency, a better mechanism for

coordinating with police who work the investigation following an incident.

Over the past year, Key residents should have noted more police vehicles on the streets of their Village.

"The emphasis here is on visible, preventive measures," Gilbert says. "There are four patrol cars out on the streets at all times. This is a significant change from how the Key Biscayne police operated a year ago."

Technology has helped make this happen. Police officers now carry laptop computers in their vehicles to file reports. Before computers, officers would spend a substantial part of their day at the police station writing reports. The laptops allow officers to remain visible and write their incident reports while still out on patrol. They turn in their computer disks at the police station at the end of their shift.

Under the new Public Safety Office, there are a number of other police/fire innovations including:

- A marine patrol is coming to Key Biscayne. The Village plans to purchase a police boat this winter. The Key is one of the few South Florida waterfront communities without a marine patrol, and the offshore drowning of two boaters last fall underscored the need for emer-

*continues on the back*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Like many islanders, this is my favorite time of year. The hectic holiday rush is past and we still have several months of fantastic weather and clear, bright days to enjoy. One cannot help but ask: Do we not live in the best place in the whole wide world?

As a new year unfolds at Village Hall, it is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work on projects for the coming year. Topping my list is a strategic plan that will take Key Biscayne into the future. Together, we need to determine how we wish our island to change—or not change—in the next five, ten, 20 years.

Key Biscayners have accomplished extraordinary things since winning incorporation 12 years ago. Much of our infrastructure—the Village Green, police and fire services, beach renourishment, storm water drains, our Village Hall and Community Center—is now in place. Finally, most of the "heavy-lifting" of community-building is behind us. So, where do we go from here? With the bulldozers soon to be silenced, I think we are all looking forward to a return to the more tranquil days of island living.

Many of you have said to me, "Let's make sure "we keep the village in the Village." Let's not lose our unique, small town feel. Many of us believe, and cherish, that Key Biscayne is an oasis away from the chaos of city life. We want to keep it that way.

On February 3 we will have the opportunity to discuss our collective vision for the future when the Village Council holds a visioning conference in preparation for our annual goals and objectives meeting. Called Vision 2004, the purpose of the conference is to chart a strategy for our island. All Key Biscayne residents are invited and I hope you will consider participating. It's one of the most important things you can do to help us identify the future direction of our island.

As Key Biscayners, I believe we are fortunate to have a very special place to call home. As I begin my second year as your Mayor, it is my goal to build stronger relationships with all of the residents of our diverse community.

One step in this direction is this new publication. On The Island is designed to keep you informed of Village happenings, projects and other topics important to all who live and work here. Also, check out the expanded Village website at [www.keybiscayne.fl.gov](http://www.keybiscayne.fl.gov) where you will find almost everything you might need to know on Village services and who's who at Village Hall. If not, call me at 305-361-1699 or send an e-mail to [roldakowski@keybiscayne.fl.gov](mailto:roldakowski@keybiscayne.fl.gov) and I will get the answer for you.

On behalf of the entire Village Council, please accept our best wishes for a healthy and happy year ahead.

Robert Oldakowski, Mayor



New Look Village upgrades Public Safety vehicles

Last year the Village placed its police and fire departments under a single administrative office to achieve greater efficiencies and provide a higher level of service. The new Public Safety Office is headed by John C. Gilbert, a 25-year veteran law enforcement officer and former fire chief. Gilbert oversees all emergency

# Calendar

## February 2004

### February 1-7

**Burn Awareness Week**  
**National Fire Burn Awareness Week**  
Village Fire Rescue Department offers free safety inspections of homes  
For more information call 305-365-8989

**February 3** 6 p.m.

**Vision 2004 Conference**  
Village Hall, 560 Crandon Boulevard

**Wednesdays**  
**February 4, 11, 18, 25** 12:45 p.m.

**Duplicate Bridge**  
Key Biscayne Village Community Room (120)  
Call 305-365-8953 for more information

**Thursdays**  
**February 5, 12, 19, 26** 7:30 p.m.

**Meditation Class**  
Key Biscayne Village Community Room (120)

**February 10** 7 p.m.

**Village Council Meeting**  
Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

**February 11** 12:30 p.m.

**"Juba This, Juba That"**  
Children's program celebrating Haitian culture  
Key Biscayne Branch Library  
299 Crandon Boulevard

**February 19** 12:30 p.m.

**Monthly Speaker Luncheon**  
**"The Latest on Medicare"**  
Get answers to your questions on prescription coverage and Medicare.  
Luncheon follows, sponsored by Av Med  
Key Biscayne Village Community Room (120)  
For reservations or more information, call 305-0365-8953

**February 21** 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Lions Club Pancake Breakfast**  
All you can eat hotcakes with live music from the Chowder Chompers Marching and Patriotic Band  
Adults \$3.50; children \$2.00  
Key Biscayne Elementary School  
For more information contact  
Helmut Heinrich, 305-361-6892

**February 24** 12:30 p.m.

**"Storytelling with Madafu"**  
Madafu Lloyd Wilson will delight audiences with his tales of the African and African-American experiences.  
Key Biscayne Branch Library  
299 Crandon Boulevard  
Ages six years and up.

**February 24** 7 p.m.

**Village of Key Biscayne Zoning Meeting**  
Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

**February 25** 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Social Security Comes to the Village**  
A bilingual social security representative will assist residents with Social Security and Medicare matters.  
Office of Senior Services, Room 220

## March 2004

**Tuesday and Thursday**

**March 2, 4** 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**AARP 55 Alive Class**  
Residents 55 and older learn driving skills.  
Community Room (120)  
Class cost is \$10.00 with checks payable to AARP  
Call 305-365-8953 for more details

**Wednesdays**  
**March 3, 10, 17, 24** 6 p.m.

**Learn to Play Bridge**  
Bridge Life master Gloria Mendia will teach children the fine art of the game of Bridge.  
Ages nine to 16 years  
Key Biscayne Branch Library, 299 Crandon Boulevard

## Saturdays

**March 6, 13, 20, 27** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**S.M.A.R.T.**  
Free science, math and reading tutoring and homework help.  
Grades K—12  
Key Biscayne Branch Library  
299 Crandon Boulevard

**March 9** 7 p.m.

**Village Council Meeting**  
Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

**Thursdays**  
**March 11 and March 25** 1 p.m.

Movies @ The Village  
Recently released films are screened  
Village Community Room  
Call 305.385.8953 for details

**March 18** 12 p.m.

**Monthly speaker Luncheon - TBA**  
Village Community Room (120)  
For reservations call 305.385.8953

**March 23** 7 p.m.

**Village Zoning Meeting**  
Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

**March 24-April 4**

**2004 NASDAQ-100 Open**  
Crandon Park Tennis Center  
7300 Crandon Boulevard

The only combined 12-day Tennis Masters Series event on the ATP and WTA Tour. Calendar features the world's top-ranked pros.  
For information, call 305-446-2200  
(Tournament Main Office)

**March 31** 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Social Security Comes to the Village**  
A bilingual social security representative will assist residents with Social Security and Medicare matters.  
Office of Senior Services, Suite 230

## April 2004

### Saturday and Sunday

**April 3, 4**  
**Women's and Men's Finals of the NASDAQ-100 Open**  
Crandon Park Tennis Center  
7300 Crandon Boulevard  
For information, call 305-446-2200  
(Tournament Main Office)

**Saturdays**  
**April 3, 10, 17, 24** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Family Storytime**  
Stories, songs and fingerplays  
Ages three-five years  
Key Biscayne Branch Library  
299 Crandon Boulevard

**Wednesdays**  
**April 7, 10, 17, 24** 6 p.m.

**Learn to Play Bridge**  
Bridge Life master Gloria Mendia will teach children the fine art of the game of Bridge.  
Ages nine-16 years  
Key Biscayne Branch Library  
299 Crandon Boulevard

**April 13** 7 p.m.

**Village Council Meeting**  
Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

**April 27** 7 p.m.

**Village Zoning Meeting**  
Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

**Library Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday  
9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Sundays (until June 6, 2004)  
1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Check out books, video and audio tapes at the Key Biscayne Branch Library, 299 Crandon Boulevard  
Phone: 305.361.6134

## ASK THE VILLAGE MANAGER



As construction continues on the new Civic Center, islanders are experiencing a short supply of public parking at Village Hall. **"Why the limited number of parking spaces?"** Here is the answer from Village Manager Jacqueline R. Menendez:

"Presently, there are a total of 96 (53 permanent and 43 temporary) parking spaces around Village Hall. The permanent spaces are located in the parking lot behind Village Hall and on E. Enid Drive and Village Green Way, which is between Village Hall and the Fire Station. The 43 temporary spaces are in a parking lot adjacent to the Fire Station and on McIntyre Street.

"The Village Hall parking lot does not permit access to citizens for public safety reasons. This lot contains police cars and emergency vehicles that have ammunition, evidence, and transport suspects. The Village Hall contains two holding cells which temporarily house suspects until they can be transported to County facilities. The temporary spaces will be replaced when McIntyre Street is aligned with Galen Drive.

"When the Civic Center is completed in the fall of 2004, there will be a total of 168 spaces in the following areas: 80 spaces in the Community Center Garage, 14 on McIntyre St., four on E. Enid Drive, 18 on Village Green Way, and 52 spaces in the Village Hall and Fire Rescue parking lots. In addition to these spaces, officials at Suntrust Bank have permitted residents to use their 40 space parking lot after 5 p.m. weekdays and on weekends and holidays."

Have a question for the Village Manager? You can send an e-mail query to [jmenendez@keybiscayne.fl.gov](mailto:jmenendez@keybiscayne.fl.gov) or write to her at Village Hall, 88 West McIntyre Street, Key Biscayne, Florida 33149.

## Public Safety Office

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gency water services. Federal funds will be used to pay for the police boat that in addition to emergency services will patrol the island's waterways as a crime deterrent.

- The Key now has increased beach security thanks to a new All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) patrol program. The

ATV patrol not only serves as a crime prevention measure, but the officers also enforce rules and regulations on beach usage and are available to provide information to visitors.

- The Key is hiring four public service aides who will handle parking enforcement and other community outreach. These civilian employees will assume much of the paperwork

associated with law enforcement thereby allowing the village's police force to spend more time on crime prevention and investigative activities.

- The fire department now protects the Village with state-of-the-art equipment including a new aerial device and a pumper. Firefighters helped design the look of the new

vehicles that play a critical role in safeguarding the lives of residents in emergency situations.

"Our approach to public safety on the island is to be pro-active," Menendez said. "We are proud of our low crime rate, but we need to be continually diligent to keep Key Biscayne a safe, secure community for our residents."

## Key Information

### VILLAGE OFFICIALS

**Mayor Robert Oldakowski**  
[roldakowski@keybiscayne.fl.gov](mailto:roldakowski@keybiscayne.fl.gov)

**Vice Mayor Jorge Mendia**  
[jmendia@keybiscayne.fl.gov](mailto:jmendia@keybiscayne.fl.gov)

**Councilmember**  
**Martha Fernandez-Leon Broucek**  
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**Councilmember Carol Diaz-Castro**  
[cdiazcastro@keybiscayne.fl.gov](mailto:cdiazcastro@keybiscayne.fl.gov)

**Councilmember Mortimer Fried**  
[mfried@keybiscayne.fl.gov](mailto:mfried@keybiscayne.fl.gov)

**Councilmember James Peters**  
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**Councilmember Robert Vernon**  
[rvernon@keybiscayne.fl.gov](mailto:rvernon@keybiscayne.fl.gov)

**Village Manager Jacqueline R. Menendez**  
[jmenendez@keybiscayne.fl.gov](mailto:jmenendez@keybiscayne.fl.gov)

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Village Manager's Office	305-365-5500
Village Clerk	305-365-5506
Building Zoning and Planning	305-365-5512
Fire Rescue	305-365-8989
Police	305-365-5555
Public Works	305-365-8945
Recreation	305-365-8901
Building Inspections	305-365-5512
Code Enforcement	305-365-8917
Occupational License	305-365-8917
Senior Services Coordinator	305-365-8953
Solid Waste Information	305-365-5500
Sports Coordinator	305-365-8900
Zoning Information	305-365-5502
Mosquito Control	305-529-1186
Property Tax Collector	305-270-4916
Voter Registration	305-375-4600
Water & Sewer Emergency Services	305-665-7471